

Carmel Urban Forestry Project Receives Grant To Aid Emerald Ash Borer Management Efforts

Carmel, IN – The City of Carmel has been awarded \$6,950 in funds from a Community Tree Planting Partnership Grant. These funds will be used toward reforestation efforts to replace ash trees in conjunction with management efforts against the Emerald Ash Borer along Hazel Dell Parkway. The Community Tree Planting Partnership was formed by the Indiana DNR, Division of Forestry and ALCOA Foundations to assist municipalities and not-for-profit organizations in purchasing and planting trees on public property.

The City of Carmel's Tree Planting Project will emphasize reforestation along Hazel Dell Parkway between 96th Street and 116th Street. There will be 60 trees planted where ash trees are continuing to be replaced to manage the ongoing threat of the Emerald Ash Borer. This project will increase tree cover, enhance environmental health and increase species diversity. The project will include an educational component at the Carmel Clay Public Library and in Carmel High School classrooms that will cover Emerald Ash Borer, homeowner treatment choices, and the importance of proper tree planting.

"The City of Carmel is committed to a healthy urban forest and its benefits, and this project reflects that commitment," said Mayor Jim Brainard.

Carmel/Clay Public Library, Carmel/Clay Schools, Carmel Urban Forestry Committee, Carmel Street Department, Carmel Utilities Department, Carmel Department of Engineering, members of Citizens for Green Space, Hoosier River Watch, and citizens of the City of Carmel are all in support of this tree planting project because the project enhances environmental health and provides both economic and aesthetic benefits to the City.

The focus of the project is to increase tree species diversity and canopy leaf percentage while reforesting this area of Carmel by replacing the ash trees killed by the Emerald Ash Borer. The reforestation project will encompass a wide range of species selection. Numerous benefits will be provided to the City and the citizens by this particular planting project, including

additional tree-lined streets, reforestation adjacent to a riparian corridor along the White River, storm water adsorption treatment, as well as varied additional environmental health benefits. The importance of trees in Carmel will be promoted through the production of a video about benefits of the urban forest and will be broadcast on Government Access Channel 16.

Grants from the Community Tree Planting Partnership are made on a matching basis and will fund tree-planting projects throughout the Hoosier state. Projects must show an equal cash match amount, in-kind match, or combination of both. This grant awarded a total of \$100,000 in tree-planting dollars to 13 Hoosier communities. This generous grant will give these communities an opportunity to increase their tree canopy cover, give their community a sense of place, and enhance their environmental health. Each community and non-profit organization that was awarded a grant has attended a grant orientation meeting and is required to include a media and educational component as part of its project.

